

Farmington Enterprise & Observer

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YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

44 pages, 4 sections

15c a Copy

Philip H. Power, Publisher

today's hot line

One Teacher Strike Looms

Here is the Observerland school district situation involving teacher bargaining at a glance:

PLYMOUTH — No agreement reached yet. Teachers have voted to strike. Classes are due to open Thursday.

WAYNE — No agreement yet, but teachers will go back to work while negotiations continue.

CLARENCEVILLE — Teachers ratified a new one-year contract by a 5-1 margin Tuesday morning.

FARMINGTON — An agreement has been reached, but teachers won't vote until Sept. 8. Meanwhile, classes will resume.

GARDEN CITY — Teachers ratified a new contract Tuesday morning.

LIVONIA — Teachers ratified a new contract Tuesday afternoon, but the school situation is confused by a Circuit Court ruling prohibiting half-day classes in grades 5-8.

REDFORD UNION — Teachers ratified a new contract last Thursday.

SOUTH REDFORD — Teachers ratified a new contract Tuesday morning by a 10-1 margin.

what's inside

Within And Among

The educational system is divided into factions which not only have disagreements among each other but divisions within each group. In the third of a series on student issues, Reporter Howard Kohn walks among and within.

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More On Builders

Homeowners distressed with the Farmington Township building department have filed one petition and are still circulating others. A report is given on the petition progress and a story is told about a chiropractor who's unhappy with his joints.

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Report On Stadium

A decision will be made soon on where the Lions' and Tigers' new domed stadium will be located. Editor Emory Daniels takes a trip to Southfield and reports back on the chances of the stadium being built in that city.

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Finding The Fun

What happens at a ski resort during the off season? How do you go about scheduling three days of entertainment that will be varied enough for the entire family from grandma to toddler? Check the Amusements pages for answers to these questions along with a handy guide of what's going in the area.

Pages 6-7C

Meal Ideas

Our back-to-school students need more than their textbooks and new outfits to start the new year. They need to be sure of good nutrition to do their best, and one of Observerland's food services has some suggestions. Read her advice.

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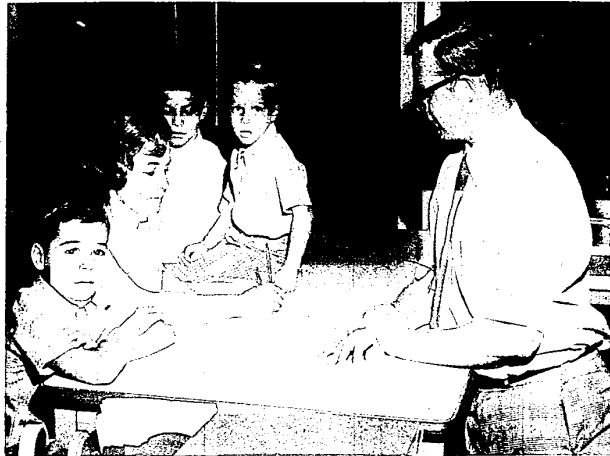
"I'm extremely pleased with the results

... the Observer sold my car for me on the first day of the ad run," said Mr. Gary Melenky. If you have items for sale, place a fast-working Observer Want-Ad.

MUSTANG 1965, 212 fastback, 289, 3 speed stick. Strictly young person. Phone 476-0000.

CLASSIFIED WANT ADS
422-0900

Thousands Gather For School Door Openings



PREPARATION — New Farmington resident Mrs. James Smart fills out enrollment forms to enter her sons in Beechview School. Looking on is Beechview Principal Richard Ruter and the three boys (from left) second grader Glenn, sixth grader John and young Jay, who enters kindergarten. (Event photo)

Youth Leader Offers His Assistance

The chairman of the Farmington Youth Guidance Committee (FYGC) feels methods other than police power should be used to solve the problem of youths' loitering near businesses.

The Rev. Hugh Stewart, after reading a report of Farmington Township Board's discussion on youth at its most recent meeting, said using township police to enforce a possible loitering ordinance would increase friction between police and students.

TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR Curtis Hall opened the trustee's discussion on the subject with a report a boy was robbed by a group of older youths at a shopping center. He said some merchants have complained about youths gathering near their businesses.

Instead, Stewart suggested representatives of merchant associations, schools, police and the FYGC should meet and form a "more positive" approach.

Stewart said he "couldn't agree more" there is a problem, especially at Demery's near 12 Mile and Farmington Rd. He urged a "more responsible" rather than a reactive solution.

A STAIRWELL on one side of the building is used extensively by students from O.E. Dunckel Junior High, said the FYGC chairman, and the area has suffered defacement as a result.

The closed stairwell makes an attractive place for students to gather. This might be countered by the store or merchants' association of the center setting aside an area for the students' use, Stewart commented. The store he added, might sponsor a dance at the school to improve their image with the students. The FYGC chairman said loitering is a manifestation of lack of recreation and places to go for youth. The area does a "less than adequate" job of providing recreation for youths above the grade school level, Stewart commented.



SERIOUS BUSINESS — Tiny Jay Smart of Farmington looks solemn as he enters Beechview School on his first day of kindergarten. (Event photo)

About a third of Farmington began the 1969-70 school year with a half day of school this morning.

School officials predicted 16,500 students, compared to the district's population of about 50,000, will attend 24 Farmington schools this year. The district estimates 15,800 pupils attended schools last year.

A THIRD OF the students will be in grades 9-12. Farmington and North Farmington high schools each will have enrollments of 1,775 with over 4,900 in junior high schools. Elementary enrollment will be over 10,000.

A half-day session is planned for Sept. 4. Friday will be the first full day of school, but seventh and tenth graders had a day of orientation Tuesday. The auditoriums at Farmington and North Farmington High Schools are the main additions to the district's physical plant this year. The two structures, originally scheduled to be completed by the opening of school, now are to be finished by the second week at North and the third week at Farmington.

Preparations for school openings were normal except at Alameda elementary, 32400 Alameda. Sand from the school's own well clogged the water pipes and forced the district to connect the school to Detroit's water system. Over 300 feet of pipe was laid to carry water.

WHILE ENROLLMENT in Farmington School District continues to climb, figures in Clarenceville School District and at area parochial schools are leveling off.

No increase in enrollment is expected for Clarenceville which will open its doors to 3,900 students on Sept. 3. Thirty-three new teachers have been hired but almost all are replacements rather than additional members. No new classrooms have been added. Starting hours in Clarenceville are: senior high, 8:10; junior high, 8:10; Westbrook

Elementary, 8:20; and Edgewood Elementary, 8:40.

Our Lady of Sorrows High School, 23629 Powers, will welcome 355 students Sept. 3 for a half-day morning session. This represents only a nominal increase, said Sister Pauline Marie, principal. Regular school hours starting Sept. 4 will be 8:45-3.

Sister Pauline is the new principal this year at O.L.S. Last year she was principal of Adrian Catholic Central in Adrian, Mich., and has been an assistant principal or principal for the past 12 years.

THE O.L.S. Elementary School at 22617 Powers will greet 660 students on Sept. 3. Full day schedules will begin the next day from 8:50-3. Sister Loretta Francis, principal, says the enrollment is the same as last year and she has 80 on a waiting list for third grade and above.

St. Paul's Lutheran at 20815 Middle Belt opens Sept. 3 with a 145 K-8 enrollment. Principal John Walther says the school has hired one new teacher and will open two new classrooms.

Our Lady of Mercy, an all-girls school at 22900 11 mile Rd., Farmington, will have a faculty meeting Sept. 3, freshmen orientations on Sept. 4 and 5, and will open its doors full-time on Sept. 8. Hours will be 8:50-3:15.

Sister Mary Camille, principal, reports O.L.M. will have an expected enrollment of 1,200, a slight increase over last year. Two additional teachers have been hired, one in modern languages and another in biology. The total parochial enrollment in Farmington is 2,360.

Preparations for the opening of school have been normal except at Alameda School at 32400 Alameda. Principal Norman W. Langen said children will register from 9:30-10:15 a.m. Sept. 3, then begin school with a full day Sept. 8. Sand from the school's well clogged the pipes, forcing the district to connect the school to the city's water system.



HELPING HAND — Kindergarten Jay Smart of Farmington enters the new world of school with an assist from his big brother John. (Event photo)

Editorial

James O'Neil Should Resign State School Post

James F. O'Neil, of Livonia, should resign from the State Board of Education to prevent further embarrassment to himself, the two-party system and to the critical business of education in Michigan.

The final bell tolled for him this week when Gov. Milliken, commenting on O'Neil's one-man campaign to oust Dr. Ira Polley as superintendent of public instruction, said:

"In this case, I think Dr. Polley is doing a good job and I support him."

It is not O'Neil's obsession with knocking off a career man of proven credentials, nor his particular views on sex education in the schools or any other of his political views which brought us agonizingly to this conclusion.

Rather it is his seeming determination to create crises and contention where none exists, using facts warped to his preconceptions and disrupting the policy-making and administrative functions of public education in Michigan.

HIS ANTI-POLLEY campaign serves as a key example.

O'Neil raised the cry for Polley's scalp in June because Polley in January, six months before, had distributed an informational bibliography on sex education publications to local educators. The list was prepared by a 24-member citizens' committee, not Polley,

and it was the recommendation of neither.

Later O'Neil called it "Ira Polley's Sex Guidelines," knowing full well that Polley had nothing to do with it. At a July 8 meeting of the board, O'Neil called for Polley's resignation. Thus O'Neil became the darling of the radical right, although he personally is not a right-winger.

Last Wednesday, O'Neil called a press conference to state that he would press for Polley's ouster that night in a board meeting, and that Polley, on vacation, would be present. He knew Polley would not be there.

But he was still willing to try to get the board to fire the superintendent, when Polley wasn't even there.

ANOTHER O'NEIL charge was that Polley's scheduling of sex education hearings "violated the one man-one vote principle," a suggestion that has become hilarious among constitutional experts.

At one point, O'Neil charged that Polley delayed in moving a sex education meeting of the board to larger quarters, while hundreds jammed the corridors outside the board room. Polley replied that he was waiting for a quorum of the board to arrive to make a decision.

O'Neil then attacked Polley for releasing the sex education bibliography without board approval.

These two cases present a curious pattern. On one hand, O'Neil wanted Polley to act without board action and on the other, to consult the board on administrative policy.

It is plain that O'Neil in neither case sought consistency, orderly process or reason. His target was Polley, and his conduct as a member of the State Board of Education has largely been determined by that goal.

IT IS precisely in this area that our concern is most pressing.

O'Neil was elected to the board on the presumption that his activities there would help the orderly and rational development of Michigan's system of education.

Instead, his vendetta against Polley has led him to engage in tactics and espouse positions which have little direct bearing on his responsibilities as a board member. Instead of being constructive, he has been disruptive and has hindered the progress of education in Michigan — regardless of his positions on sex education, morality in the schools, and other matters.

On June 8, O'Neil said in a wild board meeting:

"I'd suggest the superintendent of public instruction could serve the public better in another capacity."

We make the same suggestion to O'Neil.

—The Observer Newspapers